



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
VIRTUAL FELLOWS PROGRAM  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION – CONGEN TIJUANA**



This project seeks a Virtual Fellow to serve with the Political/Economic (Pol/Econ) Section for Consulate General Tijuana as a **Subject Matter Expert regarding contagious diseases in the Baja California-California border region.**

**Fellow Location:** The Fellow will serve virtually. Relocation is not required.

**Project Name:** Contagious Diseases in the Baja California-California Region

**Project Description:** In the past year, outbreaks of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Dengue Fever in Baja California and Baja California Sur have posed challenges for public health authorities in both states. In addition, groups such as the California-Baja California Border Health Consortium bring together professionals from both sides of the border, but often there is limited participation from Baja California and none from Baja California Sur.

**Potential Fellow Taskings:**

- Write reports on contagious diseases and developments related to them.
- Make recommendations to the Pol/Econ Section regarding current outbreaks that may cross the border into the U.S.
- Maintain communication with Mexican government officials and NGOs to ensure information sharing on contagious disease issues.
- Brief Political-Economic Section staff and Embassy personnel regularly on health issues.

**Background:** This request comes out of the requirement for the Pol/Econ Section at post to cover Health issues, but, due to a small staff and lack of medical expertise, needing a Fellow to help us do so.

**Program Requirements:** The precepts of the Virtual Fellows Program call for Fellows to have a high degree of administrative, professional, or technical knowledge/experience and a minimum of five years of professional experience that is directly applicable to the assigned task.

**Project-specific Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities:**

- Basic Public health or medical background;
- Extensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Dengue Fever;
- High-intermediate level proficiency in Spanish;
- Ability to communicate with Mexican Public officials at all levels;
- Excellent writing, communication, and research skills needed for drafting policy papers and talking points for senior level officials;

**Clearance:** The Fellow must be a U.S. citizen and must receive a Public Trust determination prior to starting his/her service. The Virtual Fellows Program staff will work with the accepted candidate to obtain the Public Trust determination. (Note: A candidate is NOT required to have a Public Trust determination prior to applying for this project.)

**Remuneration:** The Virtual Fellow will be appointed to the federal civil service as an intermittent, unpaid consultant. The Department assumes no responsibility for providing any salary or benefits to the Fellow in connection with participation in the Program.